

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A developer container storing powder developer therein comprising:
a developer outlet having an opening from which the developer is discharged; and
a shutter member for closing the opening of said developer outlet when said shutter member is fitted into the opening,
wherein said developer outlet is formed in the direction of gravity, and the opening of said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.

10. (New) The developer container as claimed in claim 9, wherein said developer outlet is formed with a passage communicated with the opening such that said passage faces the developer stored, and an axis of said passage is connected with an axis of the opening of said developing outlet at an angle to the direction of gravity.

11. (New) The developer container as claimed in claim 9, wherein said shutter member has a shaft-like configuration and is movable in the direction of the axis of the opening of said developer outlet.

12. (New) The developer container as claimed in claim 9, wherein said shutter member is biased by a biasing member from the inside toward the outside of the developer container and movable between a closed position where the opening is blocked and an open position where the opening is unblocked.

13. (New) A developer container comprising:
a storing member for storing powder developer therein;

a developer outlet having an opening from which the developer is discharged; and
a shutter member for closing the opening of said developer outlet when said shutter member is fitted into the opening,

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said developer outlet is formed in the tip of said tapered portion, and wherein the opening of said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.

14. (New) The developer container as claimed in claim 13, wherein said developer outlet is formed with a passage communicated with the opening such that said passage faces the developer stored in said storing member, and an axis of said passage is connected with an axis of the opening of said developer outlet at an angle to the direction of gravity.

15. (New) The developer container as claimed in claim 13, wherein said shutter member has a shaft-like configuration and is movable in the direction of the axis of the opening of said developer outlet.

16. (New) The developer container as claimed in claim 13, wherein said shutter member is biased by a biasing member from the inside toward the outside of the developer container and movable between a closed position where the opening is blocked and an open position where the opening is unblocked.

17. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier;
a developing device for developing a latent image on the image carrier;
a developer replenishing device comprising a developer container from which a developer is replenished to said developing device,

said developer container comprising:

a developer outlet having an opening from which the developer is discharged; and
a shutter member for closing the opening of said developer outlet when said shutter member is fitted into the opening,

wherein said developer outlet is formed in the direction of gravity, and the opening of said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.

18. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said developer container is removably mounted on a mount portion of the image forming apparatus and said developer outlet of said developer container is formed at the lower portion of the developer container and the opening formed on said developer outlet is disposed at a side portion of said developer outlet when said developer container is mounted on the mount portion of the image forming apparatus.

19. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said developer replenishing device is provided with a nozzle which is inserted into or removed from said developer outlet, and said shutter member is moved when said nozzle is inserted into said developer outlet.

20. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein a diameter of said shutter member is the same as that of said nozzle.

21. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a seal member for closing said developer outlet, wherein an inside diameter of said seal member is less than an outside diameter of said shutter member.

22. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier;

a developing device for developing a latent image on the image carrier;

a developer replenishing device comprising a developer container from which a developer is replenished to said developing device,

said developer container comprising:

a storing member for storing powder developer therein;

a developer outlet having an opening from which the developer is discharged; and

a shutter member for closing the opening of said developer outlet when said shutter member is fitted into the opening,

wherein said storing member is provided with a tapered portion and said developer outlet is formed in the tip of said tapered portion, and the opening of said developer outlet is formed at an angle to the direction of gravity.

23. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said developer container is removably mounted on a mount of the image forming apparatus and said developer outlet of said developer container is formed at the lower portion of said developer container and the opening formed on said developer outlet is disposed at a side portion of said developer outlet when said developer container is mounted on the mount portion of the image forming apparatus.

24. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said developer replenishing device is provided with a nozzle which is inserted into or removed from said developer outlet, and said shutter member is moved when said nozzle is inserted into said developer outlet.

25. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein a diameter of said shutter member is the same as that of said nozzle.

26. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a seal member for closing said developer outlet, and an inside diameter of said seal member is less than an outside diameter of said shutter member.